United Nations A/C.5/58/SR.26

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session

Official Records

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 26th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 10 December 2003, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kmoníček ..... (Czech Republic)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Agenda item 119: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Review of duplication, complexity and bureaucracy in United Nations administrative processes and procedures

Agenda item 120: Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (*continued*)

Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa

Strengthening the Department of Public Information, within the existing capacity, in order to support and enhance the United Nations web site in all official languages of the Organization: follow-up

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Agenda item 121: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (*continued*)

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

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05-64852 (E)

Improving and modernizing the conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi in order to accommodate adequately major meetings and conferences

Agenda item 134: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Agenda item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 119: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Review of duplication, complexity and bureaucracy in United Nations administrative processes and procedures (A/C.5/58/L.32)

1. *Draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.32 was adopted.*

Agenda item 120: Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (*continued*)

Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa (A/C.5/58/L.33)

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.33 was adopted.*

Strengthening the Department of Public Information, within the existing capacity, in order to support and enhance the United Nations web site in all official languages of the Organization: follow-up (A/C.5/58/L.34)

3. *Draft decision A/C.5/58/L.34 was adopted.*

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/C.5/58/L.35)

4. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the financial implications arising from the proposals to increase the net salaries of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions amounted to $5,780 for the biennium 2002-2003, and that that amount would be absorbed from within the resources allocated for the biennium 2002-2003. The additional financial requirement of $27,366 for the biennium 2004-2005 would be addressed in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 2004-2005.

5. **Ms. Goicochea** (Cuba) asked for the text of the statement on financial implications delivered by the Secretary of the Committee to be issued in writing.

6. *Draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.35 was adopted.*

Agenda item 121: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (*continued*)

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/C.5/58/L.30)

7. **Ms. Goicochea** (Cuba) said that in the Spanish text the term "*que se puedan adoptar*" in paragraph 2 should be replaced by wording that would refer only to previous relevant decisions.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.30 was adopted.*

Improving and modernizing the conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi in order to accommodate adequately major meetings and conferences (A/C.5/58/L.31)

9. *Draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.31 was adopted.*

Agenda item 134: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Transfer of buildings to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (A/C.5/58/L.29)

10. *Draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.29 was adopted.*

Note by the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/58/559)

11. **The Chairman** drew the attention of the Committee to the note by the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/58/559), which had been issued for information purposes and outlined the actions taken so far by the Secretary-General. He suggested that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should take note of that note.

12. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*) (A/58/3 (chaps. I, VII (sects. B and C) and IX))

13. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council which had been allocated to it.

14. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.

United Nations A/C.5/58/SR.27

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
24 December 2003

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 27th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 11 December 2003, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kmoníček ..... (Czech Republic)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Agenda item 126: United Nations common system (*continued*)

Agenda item 121: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (*continued*)

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

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03-65077 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 126: United Nations common system (*continued*) (A/C.5/58/L.36)

1. **The Chairman** drew the attention of the Committee to draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.36, entitled "United Nations common system". He took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution.

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.36 was adopted.*

3. **Mr. Golovanov** (Russian Federation) said that, in joining the consensus on the draft resolution, his delegation had taken into account the statement made by the Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission that parastatal organizations would be taken into account in the context of the review of the pay and benefits structure of the General Service category.

Agenda item 121: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (*continued*)

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/58/7/Add.18 and A/C.5/58/20)

4. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/C.5/58/20), said that provision for special political missions had already been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 in the amount of $163,178,100 ($169,431,700 after recosting).

5. The report contained budget proposals for 20 special political missions, 17 of which had mandates emanating from the Security Council and 3 of which had mandates emanating from the General Assembly. He noted that, although the latter had been included in the report in order to reflect a consolidated picture of resource requirements for special political missions, those mandates had yet to be confirmed in respect of 2004. In that connection, there would be a special presentation, under rule 153 of the rules of procedure, on the programme budget implications of extending the mandates of those missions. The total estimated requirements for the 20 missions for 2004 amounted to $140,304,500, of which $7.2 million would be allocated to the 3 missions with mandates emanating from the General Assembly and $133.1 million would be allocated to the 17 remaining missions.

6. He drew attention to tables 1 to 3 in the report and pointed out that the level of resource requirements varied greatly from mission to mission. The requirements for the two largest missions, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) amounted to $100.4 million, almost 72 per cent of the total requested. The total related staffing requirement for all the special political missions was 2,079 posts. He also pointed out that section III of table 1 listed the special political missions that had been completed, discontinued or integrated with other operations.

7. It was proposed that financing for all 20 missions should be approved on the understanding that the resources would only be utilized when the mandates were in place. The balance of resources remaining for special political missions in the initial provision of $169,431,700, after charges totalling $140,304,500, amounted to $29,127,200. Any further requirements beyond that balance arising for special political missions during the course of the biennium 2004-2005 would be treated in accordance with the procedures provided for in General Assembly resolution 41/213.

8. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Administrative Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (A/58/7/Add.18), said that paragraphs 3 to 12 of the Advisory Committee's report contained general observations on the missions referred to in the report of the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee had noted with satisfaction that efforts had been made to improve the presentation of estimates in accordance with comments the Committee made in its previous reports but stressed, in particular in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11, the need for further improvement.

9. Paragraphs 13 to 32 of the report focused on specific missions. The Advisory Committee had noted that a number of estimates of some missions would have to be revisited, in particular the requirements for

UNAMI, which were of a tentative nature. The final level of resources would depend on developments in the region.

10. With reference to paragraphs 27 and 28, he said that initial preparations for the international conference on the Great Lakes region would result in as yet unspecified additional resource requirements. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the Secretariat would come back to the issue after conducting the appropriate assessment.

11. In conclusion, he said that, subject to the comments and observations set out in its report, ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly should approve resources amounting to $140,304,500, under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005, as a charge against the provision for special political missions.

Administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board
(A/58/7/Add.19 and A/C.5/58/27)

12. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/C.5/58/27), said that the additional appropriation required under section 1 of the regular budget, after recosting arising from the recommendations of the Standing Committee, was estimated at $1,589,900.

13. The original budget proposals, prepared in early 2003, were based on the assumption that the resource requirements for the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund would remain at the same level as those for 2002-2003. However, a number of recommendations made by the Standing Committee concerning, inter alia, office space, additional posts and audit functions, had meant that additional funds were required. Consequently, the share of the requirements attributable to the United Nations regular budget would increase to 65 per cent.

14. The additional resource requirements would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would be subject to the provisions of that fund and would need to be considered in the context of the review of the consolidated statement of potential charges.

15. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of ACABQ (A/58/7/Add.19), said that the Advisory Committee's report applied its previous recommendations contained in its report on the administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (A/58/7/Add.9). The technical application of those recommendations would lead to an additional appropriation of $1,504,500 under section 1 of the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005.

16. **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America) said that he was not clear about the basis for the increase from 58 to 65 per cent in the share of the United Nations regular budget in the overall requirement for the Pension Fund referred to in paragraph 3 of the report of ACABQ. He inquired whether there had been an error in the calculation.

17. He observed that the financial implications contained in the report of the Secretary-General had been presented in anticipation of a budget that had not yet been approved by the General Assembly. In that connection, and to speed up the work of the Fifth Committee, he wondered whether the Chairman could submit a draft resolution accepting the recommendations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and the report of ACABQ without the need for informal consultations.

18. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that paragraph 3 of the report of ACABQ referred to the revised percentage. Since the Advisory Committee itself had indicated that it needed additional information to explain the increase, he felt that it might be more appropriate for the Secretariat to respond to the question posed by the representative of the United States of America.

19. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the formula used to determine the sharing of the costs of the Pension Fund was fairly intricate. Additional information had been provided to the secretariat of ACABQ and that information would be shared with the members of the Fifth Committee in informal consultations.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations A/C.5/58/SR.28

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
31 December 2003

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 28th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 16 December 2003, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kmoníček ..... (Czech Republic)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Agenda item 121: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 *(continued)*

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.1/Rev.1: Illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.18: Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/58/L.19: Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36: Future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.78: Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1: Situation of human rights in Myanmar

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03-65727 (E)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.28: Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/58/L.30: United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/58/L.38: The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.7/Rev.1: Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.14/Rev.1: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Revised estimates under sections 2 and 29D: conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 121: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (*continued*)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.1/Rev.1: Illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects (A/58/7/Add.14; A/C.5/58/17)

1. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) introduced the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/58/17) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.1/Rev.1, entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects". Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, inter alia, decide to convene a United Nations conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in New York for a period of two weeks between June and July 2006. Should the Assembly decide to adopt the draft resolution, that decision would give rise to additional requirements of $1,893,300 for the biennium 2004-2005 under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services; section 4, Disarmament; section 29D, Office of Central Support Services; and section 32, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget and would be charged against the contingency fund.

2. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.14). The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.1/Rev.1, an additional appropriation of $1,893,300 would be required in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 and that those provisions would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.18: Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (A/58/7/Add.13; A/C.5/58/18)

3. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) introduced the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/58/18) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.18, entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization". By that resolution, the General Assembly would, inter alia, commend the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to reduce the backlog in the publication of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, and endorse his efforts to eliminate the backlog in the publication of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*. An additional appropriation of $2,357,600 (at 2004-2005 rates), as a charge against the contingency fund, would be required in respect of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

4. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.13). The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.18, an additional appropriation of $2,357,300 would be required in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 and that those provisions would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/58/L.19: Oceans and the Law of the Sea (A/58/7/Add.16; A/C.5/58/22)

5. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) introduced the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/58/22) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/58/L.19, entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea". The requirements in respect of operative paragraph 64 (e) of the draft resolution would entail an additional amount of $347,000 (at 2004-2005 rates) at full cost under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme

budget for the biennium 2004-2005, as a charge against the contingency fund.

6. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.16). The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/58/L.19, an additional appropriation of $347,000 (at 2004-2005 rates) would be required in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 and that those provisions would represent a charge against the contingency fund. The Advisory Committee had been informed that potential charges against the contingency fund for the biennium 2004-2005 as at 21 November 2003 exceeded the level that had been approved by the Assembly for the fund for the biennium.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36: Future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/58/7/Add.20; A/C.5/58/24)

7. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) introduced the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/58/24) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36, entitled "Future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women". Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36, the decision to continue to provide support to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) would, contingent upon the availability or otherwise of additional voluntary contributions to the INSTRAW Trust Fund, give rise to potential additional requirements of up to $234,700 for the biennium 2004-2005, over and above the regular budget resources proposed under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would need to be considered in the context of the review by the Fifth Committee of the consolidated statement of potential charges to the contingency fund before any increase in appropriations for the biennium 2004-2005 was approved.

8. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.20). The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36, contingent upon the availability of additional voluntary contributions to the INSTRAW Trust Fund in 2004, there was a potential additional requirement of up to $234,700 for the biennium 2004-2005 over and above the regular budget resources proposed under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. In view of the uncertainty of the financial requirements, the Advisory Committee recommended that the matter should be taken up again by the Assembly at a resumed session to allow time for the staffing situation to be clarified and for the new Director to pursue and report upon fund-raising activities.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.78: Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (A/58/7/Add.21; A/C.5/58/25)

9. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) introduced the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/58/25) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.78, as orally amended, entitled "Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities". Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, inter alia, endorse the Ad Hoc Committee's decision to establish a Working Group with the aim of preparing and presenting a draft text, which would be the basis for negotiations on the draft convention in the Ad Hoc Committee. The conference-servicing costs of the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee and the additional session of the Ad Hoc Committee were estimated at $763,500, at full cost. The Fifth Committee might wish to inform the plenary Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.78, as orally amended, additional requirements of up to $763,500 would arise and would need to be considered for appropriation in the context of the review of the consolidated statement of programme budget

implications and revised estimates falling under the guidelines of the contingency fund, which was scheduled to be undertaken towards the end of the first part of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

10. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.21). The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.78, additional requirements of up to $763,500 would arise and would need to be considered for appropriation in the context of the review of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and the revised estimates falling under the guidelines for the contingency fund.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1: Situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/58/7/Add.22; A/C.5/58/26)

11. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) introduced the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/58/26) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1, entitled "Situation of human rights in Myanmar". Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, as orally revised, a provision in the amount of $245,900 would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2004 for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar. The requirements would be charged against the provision of $163,178,100 proposed for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

12. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.22). The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1, a provision in the amount of $245,900 would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2004 for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation of human rights in Myanmar. Those requirements would be charged against the provision of $163.2 million proposed for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.28: Office of the Special Representative fo. Children and Armed Conflict (A/58/7/Add.23; A/C.5/58/28)

13. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) introduced the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/58/28) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.28. By the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide that the activities under the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict should be supported through regular budgetary funding. As of the end of November 2003, the balance of extrabudgetary resources for Children and Armed Conflict activities amounted to some $2,123,000, which might allow financing of the current operation of the Office of the Special Representative approximately through July 2004.

14. In section V of its resolution 57/190, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the scope and effectiveness of the United Nations system response to the issue of children affected by armed conflict and to submit his report for consideration at its fifty-eighth session. In view of the potential impact on the programme of work and mode of operation of the Office of the Special Representative resulting from the comprehensive assessment, it would be prudent for the Assembly to consider further the issue of regular budgetary funding emanating from draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.28 in the context of its deliberation of the forthcoming related report of the Secretary-General. Any funding action consequent upon draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.28 should therefore be deferred and considered further by the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-eighth session in the spring of 2004.

15. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.23). The Advisory Committee did not consider the information contained

in paragraph 10 of the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/58/28) to be a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. A breakdown of estimated requirements should be provided to the Fifth Committee for its consideration. In any case, whether or not the activities under the mandate of the Special Representative should be funded from the regular budget was a policy decision to be made by the General Assembly. Should it decide to do so, the General Assembly would also have to decide whether to address the question of resource requirements now or at the Assembly's resumed fifty-eighth session, in the spring of 2004, in the context of its consideration of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General, pursuant to section V of Assembly resolution 57/190.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/58/L.30: United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (A/58/7/Add.24; A/C.5/58/29)

16. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) introduced the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/58/29) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/58/L.30. A provision of $163,178,100 (before recosting) was being sought for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/58/L.30, the requirements of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) for 2004 in the amount of $6,721,100 would be charged against the provision for special political missions requested under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

17. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.24). The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/58/L.30, the requirements for MINUGUA for 2004, in the amount of $6,721,100, would be charged against the provision for special political missions requested under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/58/L.38: The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development (A/58/7/Add.25; A/C.5/58/30)

18. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) introduced the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/58/30) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/58/L.38. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, a provision in the amount of $218,000 would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2004, to be charged against the provision of $163,178,100 (before recosting) proposed for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

19. Requirements arising from the draft resolution for 2005 had not been included in the statement of programme budget implications. Such requirements, together with those for other political missions, would be contained in the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, to be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

20. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.25). The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/58/L.38, the requirements for 2004 for continuing to provide adequate support to the Secretary-General's efforts in Central America, in the amount of $218,000, would be charged against the provision for special political missions requested under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.7/Rev.1: Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (A/58/7/Add.26; A/C.5/58/31)

21. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) introduced the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/58/31) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.7/Rev.1. Under the terms of paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to make provision in his programme budget proposals for the biennium 2004-2005, to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and its subsidiary bodies, including the seventh ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies. Total additional costs under the regular budget for servicing the meetings were estimated at $1,725,400, which would represent additional requirements over and above the resources initially proposed under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and 29E, Administration, Geneva, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

22. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.26). The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.7/Rev.1, an additional provision of $1,725,400 (at current rates) would arise under sections 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services ($1,718,400), and 29E, Administration, Geneva ($7,000), of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.14/Rev.1: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/58/7/Add.27; A/C.5/58/32)

23. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) introduced the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/58/32) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.14/Rev.1. Under the terms of paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies in his programme budget proposals for the biennium 2004-2005. Total additional costs under the regular budget for servicing the meetings were estimated at $3,781,100, which would represent additional requirements over and above the resources initially proposed under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services ($3,753,200), and section 29E, Administration, Geneva ($27,900), of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

24. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.27). The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.14/Rev.1, an additional provision of $3,781,100 (at current rates) would arise under sections 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services ($3,753,200), and 29D, Office of Central Support Services ($27,900), of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The additional requirements would need to be considered for appropriation in the context of the review of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates, provided for under the procedures established by the General Assembly on the use and operation of the contingency fund.

25. **The Chairman** invited comments on the statements of programme budget implications that had just been introduced.

26. **Ms. Afifi** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, noted with serious concern that the level of the contingency fund had recently proven to be inadequate to accommodate all additional

expenditures arising from mandates. Serious consideration should therefore be given to the need to increase the level of the fund during the current negotiations on the reform of the budgetary cycle and specific decisions should be taken in the context of the consideration of the relevant agenda item. The nature of the activities covered by the fund should also be reviewed, since activities that were not directly related to programmes were increasingly being financed from the contingency fund to the detriment of other mandates and activities with direct and specific programmatic orientation. The Group of 77 and China noted that an amount of $2,357,600 had been earmarked for the financing from the contingency fund of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*. That provision should not be charged against the contingency fund and should instead be restored to the Secretary-General's programme budget proposals for the biennium 2004-2005.

27. **Mr. Mumbey-Wafula** (Uganda) expressed dissatisfaction at the operations of the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, which should be visibly and globally operational and able to implement its mandates under stable financial conditions. Effective guidelines must be developed to ensure that no areas in which children were affected by armed conflict were neglected. Uganda was a case in point. The Office must focus its operations in ways that would ensure that all problems of children and armed conflict were addressed at the global level before further commitments could be made with regard to funding.

28. **Mr. Herrera** (Mexico) agreed with the representative of Morocco that the implementation of all mandates and activities approved by the Main Committees of the General Assembly was a matter of priority. The future of the contingency fund must therefore be addressed in an intelligent manner and due consideration given to all possible solutions. If the fund's reserves were exhausted before the end of the forthcoming biennium, the Fifth Committee would find itself in the undesirable position of having to decide which United Nations activities should be deferred to the following biennium.

29. **Ms. Goicochea** (Cuba) endorsed the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and shared the view that the future of the contingency fund must be addressed. Although recent experience had shown that the current level of resources in the fund was not strictly necessary, it should be borne in mind that less use had been made of those resources in previous bienniums. Furthermore, new activities had often been approved in the past, on the condition that they would be financed from within existing resources. It would be difficult for the Fifth Committee to reassign priority status to certain issues, since doing so could call into question decisions taken by other committees of the General Assembly. The time had come to review the types of activities covered by the contingency fund, since some activities that were not directly related to programmes were being financed by the fund and thereby contributing to its depletion.

30. With regard to the financing of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations organs*, she supported the proposal put forward by the representative of Morocco that the relevant amount should be restored to the Secretary-General's budget proposals for the biennium 2004-2005. The method of financing should not be changed without a decision by the relevant intergovernmental body.

31. Lastly, she had taken note of the Advisory Committee's comments concerning the absence of information on requirements for possible estimates of expenditure in respect of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.28. She wished to reiterate that, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Secretariat was required to provide the information necessary to enable decisions to be taken on questions involving expenditure.

32. **Mr. Moungara-Moussotsi** (Gabon) recalled that concerns over the financial instability of the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict had prompted the submission of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.28, the aim of which was to procure regular budget funding for the Office.

33. Unfortunately, the relevant department of the Secretariat had failed to provide any detailed information about the financial situation of the Office, apart from the assessment of the implications of the operative paragraphs of the draft resolution. A detailed breakdown of the real requirements of the Office was needed in order to have a better understanding of the financial difficulties it would face after July 2004, when the balance of extrabudgetary resources for

Children and Armed Conflict activities would be exhausted.

34. Deferring a decision on the issue would be in contravention of General Assembly resolution 57/190 and would also have an impact on the other agencies working in the area of children and armed conflict, given that the assessment requested by the Assembly would cover the response of the entire United Nations system to that issue. He could not overemphasize the importance of the Office of the Special Representative and appealed to all delegations to provide it with the necessary resources to enable it to carry out its mandate. It might also be appropriate to invite the Special Representative to address the Committee.

35. **Ms. Attwooll** (United States of America), referring to the level of the contingency fund, recalled that the General Assembly resolution on the budget outline had reaffirmed that level. It was not advisable, however, to earmark all the resources in the fund before the biennium 2004-2005 had even begun.

36. On the issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, her delegation had been unable to support the relevant draft resolution in the Second Committee on account of concerns about its programme budget implications. The Secretary-General, however, should have given priority to that item in his programme budget proposals.

37. With regard to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, she observed that the Secretary-General had withdrawn funding for the publication from the regular budget with the consent of the relevant programme managers. Her delegation was of the view that funding should be provided on an extrabudgetary basis.

38. On INSTRAW, her Government had participated actively in attempts to find ways to streamline the operations of the Institute. It continued to believe, however, that funding for INSTRAW should continue on an extrabudgetary basis.

39. Lastly, her delegation was of the view that the costs of providing conference services for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and for activities relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind should be borne by the members of the relevant treaty bodies.

Revised estimates under sections 2 and 29D: conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (A/58/7/Add.17; A/C.5/58/23)

40. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates under sections 2 and 29D of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005: conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (A/C.5/58/23), said that the estimated additional requirement for 2004 amounted to $4,193,000. The majority of those resources ($3,958,900) fell under section 2 of the budget (General Assembly affairs and conference services), with the remainder ($234,100) falling under section 29D (Office of Central Support Services). During the previous biennium, conference services had been financed on an ad hoc basis and requests for funds had been submitted on three separate occasions. When the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005 had been prepared in January 2003, it had been impossible to forecast the Counter-Terrorism Committee's activities for the forthcoming biennium and therefore no provisions had been made.

41. The additional appropriation would not be charged against the contingency fund, because peace and security issues were not covered by the fund's provisions. Should the Committee's activities be extended beyond 2004, supplementary proposals would be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

42. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.17), drew attention to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report. It was expected that meeting servicing costs for 2004, estimated at $650,000, could be met from within resources already programmed for section 2 of the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005. The additional appropriation would amount to $4.2 million, of which slightly over $3.958 million would fall under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005 and $234,100 under section 29D.

43. As it had indicated on previous occasions, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-

General should be authorized to enter into commitments of $4,193,000 in connection with the conference-servicing and common support requirements of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in 2004. Such additional appropriations as might be necessary could be dealt with in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 2004-2005.

44. **Ms. Goicochea** (Cuba) said that she had taken note of the information contained in paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report and wished to know the reasons for the estimated decrease in the number of pages translated. She agreed with the Advisory Committee that the treatment of the financing of the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee was inconsistent and called on the Secretariat to address the issue. She took the view that the additional appropriations in question should be designated as additional requirements under the relevant sections of the budget, in accordance with the proposal put forward by the Secretary-General.

45. **Ms. Attwooll** (United States of America) observed that the additional appropriations related only to conference and support services for 2004 and asked why no resources had been requested for 2005. The Secretariat should also provide estimates for 2005.

46. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that, in the early stages of its work, the Counter-Terrorism Committee had had to deal with a high volume of incoming documentation, primarily reports from Member States submitted pursuant to the reporting obligations laid down in resolution 1373 (2001). In the later stages, however, the number of documents required by the Committee had declined, which would explain the decrease in the number of pages translated.

47. No estimates of requirements for 2005 had been prepared because there were still uncertainties as to how the situation would evolve. Since the Counter-Terrorism Committee would not necessarily maintain the same level of activity in 2005, it had been decided that funding would be applied for on an annual, incremental basis. He had taken note of the Advisory Committee's comments concerning the need to regularize the treatment of the financing of the activities in question. The necessary action would be taken in respect of the biennium 2006-2007, by which time the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee should have stabilized. Additional details would be provided, as required, during informal consultations.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.